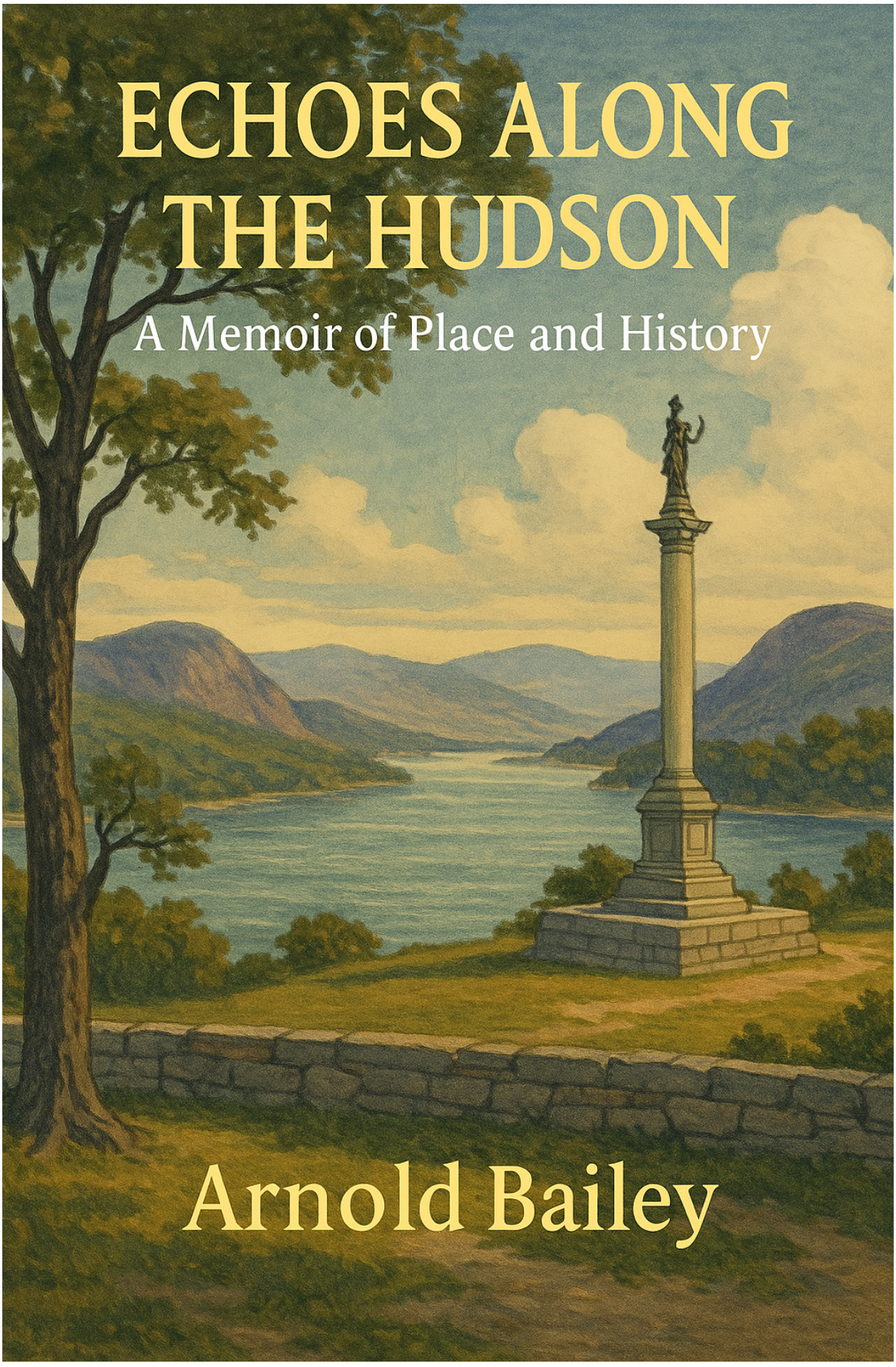

ECHOES ALONG THE HUDSON
A Memoir of Place and History
Arnold Bailey

.

Table of contents

Dedication

Introduction

Preface 1

John F. Gould (1906–1996) 2

Recollections 2

Part I – Strongholds of Independence

The Old Sands-Ring Homestead – Quaker & Patriot Ties 4

Jones Farm (Community Legacy) 5

Hasbrouck House – Washington's Final Headquarters 6

Temple Hill – New Windsor Cantonment, 1783 8

The proclamation of peace - Newburgh 1783 10

Knox headquarters 13

Storm king mountain: Strategic choke point in the Highlands 15

Part II – Crossroads at Newburgh and Beacon

The Hudson River Sloop 16

Newburgh and the Hudson River, 1825 18

The Side-Wheeler Ferryboat Highlander 20

The Newburgh–Beacon Ferry — Gateway to the Hudson 22

1

Mount Beacon Incline Railway (1902) 24

Part III – Traditions in the Valley

Cornwall Presbyterian Church 26

Brotherhood Winery – A Living Legacy Since 1839 28

Jones Farm, Cornwall, New York 30

Part IV – The Hudson in a Modern Nation

Newburgh Ferry "Orange" at Beacon, N.Y. 32

Hyde Park: The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt 35

Battle Monument at West PointImage Description 36

The Post Chapel at West Point 38

Thayer Hall - West point 40

Epilogue – Echoes Along the MidHudson

Seals of the original 13 colonies 42

Visitor Travel Guide

Map of the Hudson Valley 45

Landmark addresses and contact information 45

1

Dedication

For my beloved wife, Arlene, whose love made my life full and always encouraged and supported my interest in history of the Hudson Valley.

And in honor of Pete Seeger, whose tireless work helped restore the Hudson so that it might once again reflect the beauty and spirit of its people.

Introduction

Preface

During our years in Texas, each summer we made long trips back to New York. One of our regular stops was Jones Farm, where we looked for the plaques illustrated by John Gould. The sketches we're excellent and they reminded me of the Hudson Valley and it's heritage. They captured the familiar sights of Cornwall, Newburgh, and West Point—places tied to my own memories.

This book grew out of those plaques. I wanted to bring them to life by pairing Gould's work with current images, historical background, and a visitor's guide so others could see and experience these landmarks. Along the way, I found myself recalling my own childhood memories of the region, which I have included in the recollections section to connect personal experience with history.

What I discovered through this process surprised me. With the help of ChatGPT, I learned far more than I had ever known about the area's Revolutionary War history—especially the role of Newburgh and the surrounding camps, wher1e many of the Continental Army's generals and soldiers spent their final winter. Adding these details has allowed me to weave together memory, history, and place in ways that I hope will interest and inspire readers.

More than anything, my purpose is to share the deeper history of these landmarks and to encourage others to visit them. The Hudson Valley is not only a landscape but a living story, and this book is my way of preserving and passing on its echoes.

My interest in this project began with a simple curiosity about how ChatGPT worked. Because of my vision challenges, I used ChatGPT to describe the John Gould plaques for me. The descriptions were excellent and accurate, and the program even offered background history, which I found fascinating. That experience sparked the idea of collecting the plaque images into a single document and expanding it with historical context. As the project grew, I realized there were so many interesting facts worth sharing that it could become a book, complete with a visitor's catalog at the end. Throughout the process, ChatGPT not only provided the content—about 95% of the text—but also guided me on how to structure and prepare the manuscript for publication. My main contribution was organizing the project, shaping the structure, and crafting the prompts that helped bring the material to life.

.

John F. Gould (1906–1996)

John F. Gould (1906–1996) was an American illustrator, educator, and artist whose career bridged commercial success and regional preservation. Trained at Pratt Institute, where he later taught for over two decades, Gould gained national recognition in the 1940s and 1950s through illustrations for *The Saturday Evening Post* and commissions for companies like General Electric and the Erie Locomotive Division. His precise yet dynamic renderings of trains, factories, and transportation scenes reflected both technical mastery and a storyteller's eye.

Gould's deepest legacy rests in the Hudson Valley, where his pen-and-ink drawings and paintings captured ferries, riverside towns, Bannerman Castle, the Beacon Incline Railway, and other disappearing landmarks with nostalgic detail. In 1957 he and his wife Mary founded the Bethlehem Art Gallery in Cornwall-on-Hudson, fostering local talent and showcasing regional history through art. Working in oils, watercolors, gouache, and acrylics, Gould preserved the valley's character for future generations, leaving a body of work that endures as both art and historical recoRecollections

Recollections

The Hudson was always more than scenery—it was part of daily life. The Newburgh–Beacon Ferry was central to my childhood. The terminal stood just off Water Street, then alive with shops. Once the car was loaded, I would stand at the front of the ferry and feel the spray as we crossed. Often we passed the Dayliner heading toward Rye Beach or West Point, while Mount Beacon came into view as we approached the terminal. My parents once danced in a mountaintop hall there before they married, reached by the incline railway. By my youth both the hall and railway were gone.

Not all the river's stories were pleasant. I remember hearing of fish with three eyes or tumors, signs of pollution that scarred the water. But the Hudson endured. Thanks to Pete Seeger and others, the river grew cleaner, and today the Newburgh waterfront has been revived, even offering a passenger ferry again between Newburgh and Beacon.

One of my earliest memories is visiting Washington's Headquarters, the Hasbrouck House, as a schoolboy. The crisp autumn air, piles of leaves, and flickering candles inside stay with me. What struck me most were the massive links of the iron chain once stretched across the Hudson, a reminder of the history anchored there.

Arlene's years at West Point left her with stories she loved to share. She once rode in a limousine to the Colonel's office and met Arthur Ashe, whom she admired deeply. But her fondest recollections were tempered by the dreaded winter commutes over Storm King, a road she never forgot.

Storm King itself brought memories of its own. Its narrow ledges and steep views were beautiful but intimidating, especially in winter. When my mother was in haverstraw for physical therapy, my father and I drove that road often. I still remember one storm so bad that even a truck ahead of us pulled over, only to follow behind as we made our way through.

Cornwall has always been a place of deep connection. The Presbyterian Church, where Arlene and I were married, stood at the center of community life. Nearby was the carpet mill where our families worked, and where my aunt and uncle lived in one of the company houses. Arlene's family lived on Maple Street, and many of my fondest memories come from times spent there.
Main Street was lively, with its theater, bowling alley, and Fourth of July parades. We visited Jones Farm for fresh produce and stopped at Ring's Pond in Cornwall-on-Hudson, never realizing at first its connection to the Ring family. These places formed the patchwork of everyday life, binding personal stories to the town's history.

When I was about nine, my aunt took me to Hyde Park. What impressed me most was not the grandeur of Roosevelt's home but the displays of his boyhood hobbies—the handmade models and vast stamp collection. That visit sparked my own interest in stamps. Years later, I returned to find the exhibits gone and the house more formal, but the memory of that first visit has always stayed with me.

1

Part I – Strongholds of Independence

The Old Sands-Ring Homestead – Quaker & Patriot Ties

The Old Sands-Ring Homestead in Cornwall, New York—a colonial Quaker home that welcomed spiritual gatherings and patriotic footsteps during the birth of a nation.

Located in **Cornwall, New York**, the **Sands-Ring Homestead** is a remarkably preserved colonial home with deep roots in both **Quaker history** and the **American Revolutionary War**. Built around **1760** by **Nathaniel Sands**, a devout Quaker who came to Cornwall from Long Island, the house soon became a central location for spiritual, social, and even patriotic activity.

In **1773**, Sands deeded the home to his cousin **David Sands**, who used it not only as a private residence but also as a **Quaker meeting place**. Since Cornwall had no established Meeting House at the time, this home served as a spiritual and community hub for early Quaker settlers in the region.During the **American Revolution**, the house is believed to have offered **lodging and quiet sanctuary to traveling patriots**, including possibly soldiers and leaders passing through the Hudson Highlands. The peaceful Quaker values of the household were balanced by a strong sense of civic duty.

Over the years, the home passed into the hands of the **Ring family**, who helped preserve its character and history. Today, the Sands-Ring Homestead functions as a **museum**, educating visitors about early American life, the Quaker influence in the Hudson Valley, and the home's role in both colonial and revolutionary eras.

[1] Jones Farm (Community Legacy)

~~The Old Sands~~-Ring Homestead as it is today

[1] Although outside the central focus of this volume, **Jones Farm in Cornwall, New York**—founded in 1914 and still family-run—remains one of the Hudson Valley's most cherished agricultural landmarks, connecting generations of families through produce, baked goods, and community tradition.

Hasbrouck House – Washington's Final Headquarters

THE HASBROUCK HOUSE ☆ NEWBURGH, N.Y. ☆ WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT THE END OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR ☆
THIS WAS THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FROM APRIL 1, 1782 TO MID-AUGUST, 1783 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆
HERE, FOR MONTHS, MARTHA WASHINGTON EXTENDED HOSPITALITY IN THE MOUNT VERNON MANNER TO PEOPLE OF ORANGE COUNTY & TO ARMY OFFICERS AND TRAVELLERS FROM AFAR ☆ THE ORIGINAL HOUSE WAS BUILT BY THE PALATINE BLACKSMITH, BURGER MEYNDERS IN THE 1720's

From April 1782 to August 1783, this stone house served as General George Washington's final wartime headquarters. It was here that he led the Continental Army during the closing phase of the Revolutionary War, delivered the famous Newburgh

The Hasbrouck House, also known as **Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site**, stands in Newburgh, New York, as one of the most important surviving landmarks of the American Revolution. Originally built in the 1720s by Burger Myndertse, a Palatine immigrant blacksmith, the sturdy stone dwelling later came into the hands of the Hasbrouck family, prosperous farmers of Huguenot descent. In April 1782, General George Washington chose this house to serve as his final wartime headquarters, remaining there until August 1783—the longest period he ever stayed in one location during the conflict. From its elevated position overlooking the Hudson River, the headquarters offered both strategic visibility and proximity to the Continental Army encampments at New Windsor, where thousands of troops awaited news of peace.

Within its walls, Washington directed the closing phase of the Revolution. Here he issued his famous **Newburgh Address**to officers of the Continental Army, quelling the so-called "Newburgh Conspiracy"—a potential mutiny over unpaid wages and pensions. By appealing to their honor and shared sacrifices, Washington reinforced the principle of civilian control of the military, helping to secure the fragile

republic's democratic foundations. It was also at the Hasbrouck House that Washington announced the **Proclamation of Peace** in April 1783, formally marking the cessation of hostilities with Britain months before the Treaty of Paris was signed. Martha Washington joined him during this period, turning the home into both a center of military command and a place of hospitality where visiting dignitaries and officers were received.

Today, the Hasbrouck House is preserved as the nation's first publicly operated historic site, designated in 1850. Visitors can walk through its period-furnished rooms and view artifacts associated with Washington's residency. Among its most striking features is a preserved section of the **Great Chain**, an enormous iron barrier stretched across the Hudson River at West Point during the war to prevent British ships from advancing upriver. Links of this chain, each weighing over 100 pounds, are displayed at the site, a powerful reminder of the ingenuity and determination that secured American independence. The house thus serves not only as a testament to Washington's leadership but also as a living memorial to the endurance of the Continental Army and the symbolic conclusion of the Revolution in the Hudson Valley.

The current appearance of the Hasbrouck House, listing it as a National Historic Landmark dating from 1750–1770 and serving as Washington's longest wartime

1

Temple Hill – New Windsor Cantonment, 1783

Illustration of the "Publick Building and Temple" where Continental Army officers gathered in the final days of the Revolutionary War. Located in New Windsor, NY, the building symbolized order, unity, and faith during a critical turning point in American history.

The Temple Hill – New Windsor Cantonment of 1782–1783 was the largest Continental Army encampment of the Revolutionary War's final phase and a pivotal site in securing the peace. Located just a few miles from Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, nearly 7,000 soldiers wintered here under difficult conditions. The cantonment was laid out with rows of log huts, storage buildings, hospitals, and the impressive "Publick Building," commonly called the Temple, which served as both meeting hall and chapel. Within its walls soldiers gathered for religious services, public assemblies, and addresses from their commanders, while Generals Henry Knox, Horatio Gates, and Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben oversaw discipline and training during the long months of waiting for news of peace.]
Frustration mounted as Congress failed to provide promised pay and pensions, giving rise to the so-called Newburgh Conspiracy.

Washington's famous address of March 15, 1783—where he donned his spectacles and reminded his men he had grown gray and nearly blind in service to his country—was delivered here. That moment, remembered for defusing potential mutiny and rejecting any notion of monarchy, reaffirmed the Revolution's republican ideals and safeguarded its legacy. Shortly afterward, Washington issued orders from the cantonment announcing the cessation of hostilities following the April 1783 Proclamation of Peace, marking Temple Hill as a symbol of the army's transition from war to nationhood.
Today, the reconstructed Temple at Temple Hill commemorates this Landmark of American history, standing as a reminder of the fragile unity, leadership, and endurance that defined the Revolution's closing days.

New Windsor Cantonment "Temple of Virtue" Building, photo by John Stanton 4 May 2012

The proclamation of peace - Newburgh 1783

This marks the date and location of **General George Washington's official announcement** to the

Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the end of the Revolutionary War, this design honors General Washington's April 19, 1783 proclamation of peace from Newburgh, New York—where war gave way to a hopeful new era of American

Continental Army that **the war with Great Britain had ended**. Though the **Treaty of Paris** would not be signed until September 3, 1783, and ratified in 1784, the **Proclamation of the Cessation of Hostilities** was issued by Congress on April 11, 1783. Eight days later, on April 19—the anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord—Washington publicly proclaimed the end of the Revolutionary War from his headquarters in **Newburgh, New York**.

By issuing the **Proclamation of Peace** from Newburgh, Washington turned what could have been a post-war crisis into a triumph of order and civility, preserving the fragile unity of the new nation.

The scene depicted corresponds to Washington receiving news of peace in his Newburgh headquarters, a moment following his widely cited **Newburgh Address** in March 1783. The artist conveying this scene is Edward Percy Moran, as confirmed by Mount Vernon's collection, which holds a **watercolor sketch** of this exact moment titled *"Washington and his Officers at Newburgh Receiving News of Peace."*

1

1

Knox headquarters

Knox's headquarters today. A broad exterior view from Trip101's collection that highlights the surrounding lawn and flagpole

1

The **Knox Headquarters**, located in New Windsor just outside Newburgh, New York, is one of the most significant surviving Revolutionary War sites in the Hudson Valley. The stone house was built around 1754 by John Ellison, a prosperous miller and merchant whose family established an estate along the Hudson River. Its solid construction and strategic location near the King's Highway and river landings made it a desirable place for military use during the Revolution. From 1779 to 1780, the house was leased by the Continental Army and became the headquarters of **Major General Henry Knox**, the chief of artillery for George Washington's army. Knox was among Washington's most trusted officers, having gained fame for his daring midwinter transport of cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston in 1776, a feat that forced the British evacuation of that city.

During his time at the Ellison house, Knox directed the placement, supply, and training of the Continental Army's artillery, which was crucial in maintaining the Hudson Highlands as a defensive stronghold. The Hudson River was the lifeline of the colonies, and British forces long hoped to cut New England off from the rest of the colonies by controlling this corridor. Knox's headquarters became a hub for coordinating artillery operations at **West Point, New Windsor, and Newburgh**, ensuring that the massive Hudson River chain defenses and surrounding forts remained operational. His wife, Lucy Flucker Knox, and their children also stayed at the house, adding a domestic dimension to the wartime setting. Lucy, the daughter of a loyalist Boston family, had chosen her patriot husband over her family's loyalty to the Crown and followed him through much of the war.
After Washington and the main army shifted headquarters to Newburgh and New Windsor in 1782–83, Knox continued to play an essential role in maintaining the discipline and readiness of the troops as peace negotiations dragged on. His headquarters at the Ellison house thus formed Era of a network of command centers in the Hudson Valley that supported Washington's leadership during the final stage of the war.

Today, Knox's Headquarters State Historic Site preserves the Ellison house and interprets the life of Henry Knox, his family, and the soldiers who served under him. Visitors can walk through the original 18th-century rooms, furnished in period style, and imagine the daily life of one of Washington's most important generals as he balanced the burdens of command with family life. The site stands as a reminder not only of military strategy and logistics but also of the personal sacrifices that underpinned America's fight for independence.

Note: Although beyond the central focus of this volume, Baron von Steuben also maintained headquarters at Mount Gulian in Fishkill, where in 1783 he helped found the Society of the Cincinnati, the nation's first veterans' organization. At the New Windsor Cantonment, General Horatio Gates, remembered for Saratoga but diminished after the Conway Cabal, occupied a small farmhouse, while von Steuben directed from nearby quarters where he compiled his *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*—the "Blue Book" that shaped the professional standards of the U.S. Army.

[2] During the final phase of the Revolutionary War, several senior officers established headquarters in the Hudson Valley, creating a cluster of command posts around Newburgh and New Windsor that made the region the nerve center of the Continental Army in 1782–83. i

Storm king mountain: Strategic choke point in the Highlands

Storm King Mountain and “The Gap” on the Hudson River, captured in a wintry stillness. Once a sentinel in America’s Revolutionary defense, and later a battleground

Storm King Mountain, depicted in this winter view, is a prominent peak rising above the west bank of the Hudson River near Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York. Named by 19th-century writer Nathaniel Parker Willis, Storm King was once believed to control the storms of the region. Its dramatic cliffs and steep slopes made it a natural sentinel overlooking "The Gap," a narrow stretch where the river carves between Storm King and Breakneck Ridge across the water.

This portion of the Hudson River has deep historical significance. During the Revolutionary War, the Hudson River was a vital artery for controlling movement between New England and the rest of the colonies. The narrowness of The Gap made it a strategic defensive point, and fortifications were built

nearby at West Point to secure the area In the 20th century, Storm King gained further prominence during the environmental conservation movement

In winter, as depicted in Gould's sketch, the Hudson's surface would often freeze over or become choked with ice floes, creating a dramatic and peaceful contrast to its strategic past. When local citizens and the Scenic Hudson organization successfully opposed a Con Edison power plant project, marking a landmark victory for environmental law.

Part II – Crossroads at Newburgh and Beacon

The Hudson River Sloop

For more than a century, graceful Hudson River sloops like this one carried people and goods between Albany and New York City, their sails full of wind and purpose.

From the late **1600s through the mid-1800s**, the **Hudson River sloop** was the primary mode of transportation and commerce along New York's greatest river. Originally adapted from Dutch sailing vessels, these single-masted ships were uniquely suited to the **narrow, often unpredictable waters** of the Hudson.
With their wide beam, shallow draft, and tall sail, sloops were swift, maneuverable, and could navigate both upriver and down. Wind-powered and aided by tidal currents, they carried **passengers, farm goods,**

lumber, and manufactured wares between rural communities like **Albany, Kingston, and Poughkeepsie**, and the bustling port of **New York City**.

In an era before railroads or paved roads, these sloops were the **lifeline of the Hudson Valley**, enabling not only economic trade but also communication and cultural exchange. They were often crewed by local families and captains who knew every bend and shoal of the river.

The image captures one such vessel under full sail, framed by the Hudson Highlands—likely near **Breakneck Ridge or Storm King Mountain**, known landmarks of the river corridor.

By the mid-19th century, the steamboat—pioneered by Robert Fulton—began to replace sloops, offering faster and more reliable transit regardless of wind. Still, the Hudson River sloop remains a powerful symbol of early American industriousness and the romance of sail

"Clearwater's famous soup—nourishing bodies while reminding us to nourish the Hudson. Every spoonful symbolizes clean water, healthy fish, and a river that sustains both people and wildlife. By protecting the Hudson from pollution and restoring its ecosystems, we ensure that future generations can share in its

Newburgh and the Hudson River, 1825

Newburgh, New York in 1825—a river town on the rise, where ox carts shared the path with progress and sloops sailed toward a new era of American expansion.

In the early 19th century, **Newburgh, New York**, nestled on the west bank of the **Hudson River**, stood as one of the most strategically important and rapidly growing river towns in the young United States.

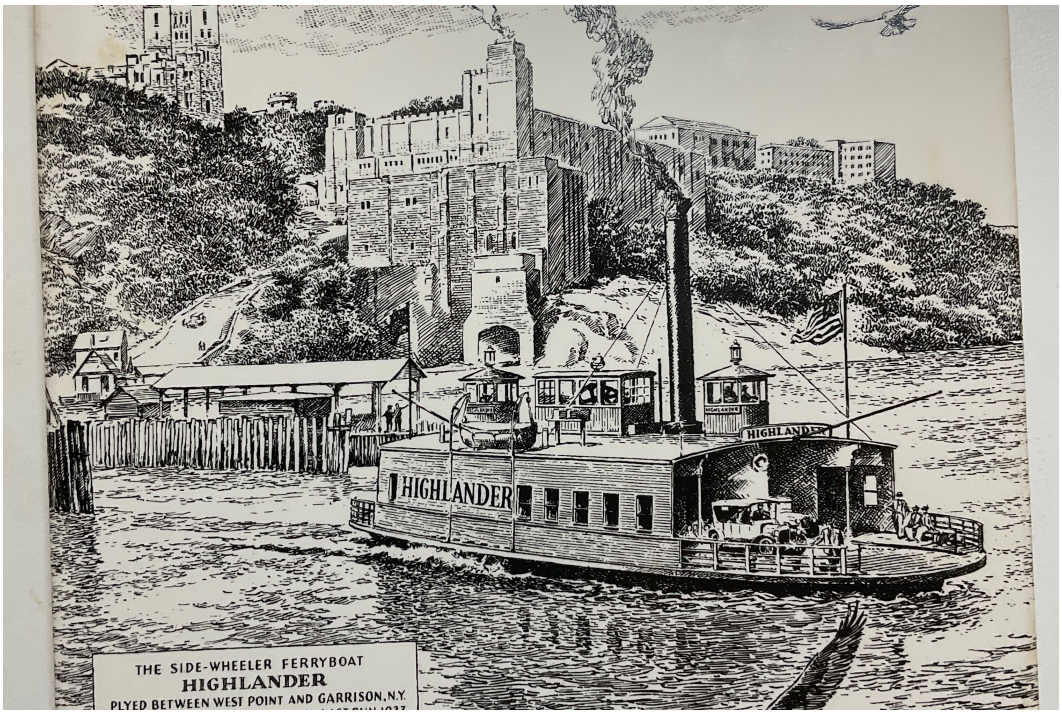
By 1825, the Hudson River had become a bustling commercial waterway. The drawing captures this transformative time—sloops and sailboats move across the water while a peaceful ox-drawn cart meanders down a dirt path into the village. The scene reflects both agricultural life and the nascent industrial boom that would come with the completion of the Erie Canal that same year, connecting the Hudson to the Great Lakes and opening vast new trade routes.

Newburgh itself, originally settled by Germans and later a significant Revolutionary War site (home to Washington's Headquarters), was now becoming a hub of shipbuilding, commerce, and culture. Its scenic hills and views made it a favorite among artists of the Hudson River School and among early tourists seeking America's natural beauty.

The surrounding Hudson Highlands, seen in the background, frame this idyllic vista, representing the enduring blend of natural majesty and civic development that defined the region's identity during this period.

1

The Side-Wheeler Ferryboat Highlander



In the background, you can clearly see the **U.S. Military Academy at West Point**, with its Gothic Revival architecture and prominent bluff overlooking the river. The ferry is shown fully loaded, possibly with soldiers or cadets, with its name *HIGHLANDER* prominently displayed on the paddle guard.

Built in **1876** at Greenpoint, New York, the *Highlander* was a distinguished **side-wheel ferryboat** that served the **Hudson River crossing between West Point and Garrison** for nearly fifty years. With its iconic paddle wheels and steam funnel, the vessel carried **thousands of cadets, officers, and notable guests** to the U.S. Military Academy, becoming a trusted part of daily life and military logistics.

Operating until **1923**, the *Highlander* bridged a formative era for the Army, spanning the post–Civil War years through **World War I**. During its service, it played a vital role in transporting generations of future military leaders, offering a rare glimpse into the importance of river travel before modern bridges and highways transformed the region.

Revered in its time, the *Highlander* is remembered as **one of the most notable ferryboats in Hudson River history**, honored for the many distinguished lives it carried across its waters.

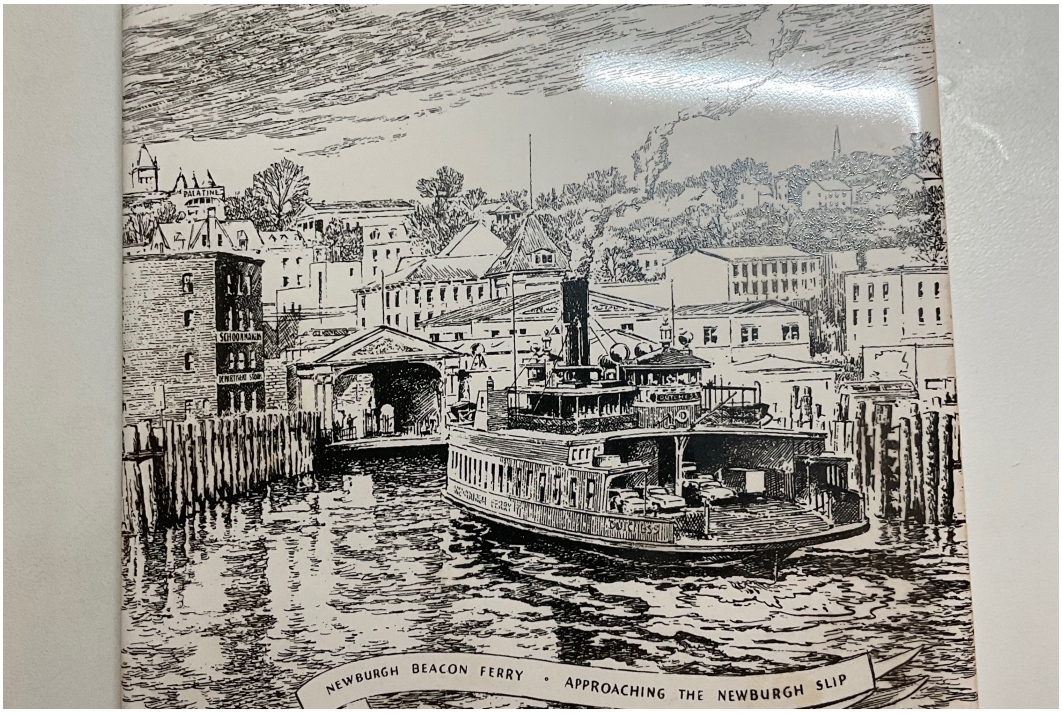
The region around West Point, New York, where the Hudson River flows between picturesque mountains

John F. Kensett's #Hudson River Scene# (1857, The Met) shows the West Point reach dotted with river traffic — a good example of how HRS painters set modern vessels

was a favorite of many of the so-called Hudson River School artists, including Kensett. The artist painted numerous views of this site near Fort Putnam, a then-dilapidated relic of the Revolutionary War. From his elevated vantage point, Kensett recorded the disparate levels of terrain and varying effects of light and shadow—from the sunlit meadow in the foreground to the dark foliage along the deep ravine and the glowing surface of the river below.

1

The Newburgh–Beacon Ferry — Gateway to the Hudson



For decades, this side-wheel ferry connected Newburgh and Beacon, carrying passengers, goods, and commuters across the Hudson River before the bridge era began.

For over a century, the Newburgh–Beacon Ferry was a vital link across the Hudson River, connecting the bustling river towns of **Newburgh** and **Beacon** in New York's Hudson Valley. As shown in this drawing, the ferry approaches the **Newburgh Slip**, where passengers and cargo once flowed into the heart of the city's waterfront district.

These steam-powered ferries were lifelines of commerce and daily travel, transporting workers, goods, and later, train passengers connecting to the **Erie Railroad** in Beacon. The ferry's operation predated the construction of the **Newburgh-Beacon Bridge** and was crucial in uniting communities on opposite banks of the Hudson.With its broad decks, tall smokestack, and steady passage, the ferry served as both a practical necessity and a scenic journey—offering sweeping views of the river, nearby mountains, and thriving riverfronts. The ferry ceased regular service in **1963**, just before the bridge opened, marking the end of a significant chapter in local transportation history.

Newburgh’s waterfront has long stood as a central artery of life along the Hudson River. In the 18th and early 19th centuries, before roads crisscrossed the region, the riverfront was the primary gateway for commerce and transportation. Water Street—running parallel to the Hudson—became the heartbeat of the city, lined with warehouses, shops, hotels, and trolleys that buzzed with passengers and freight.

1

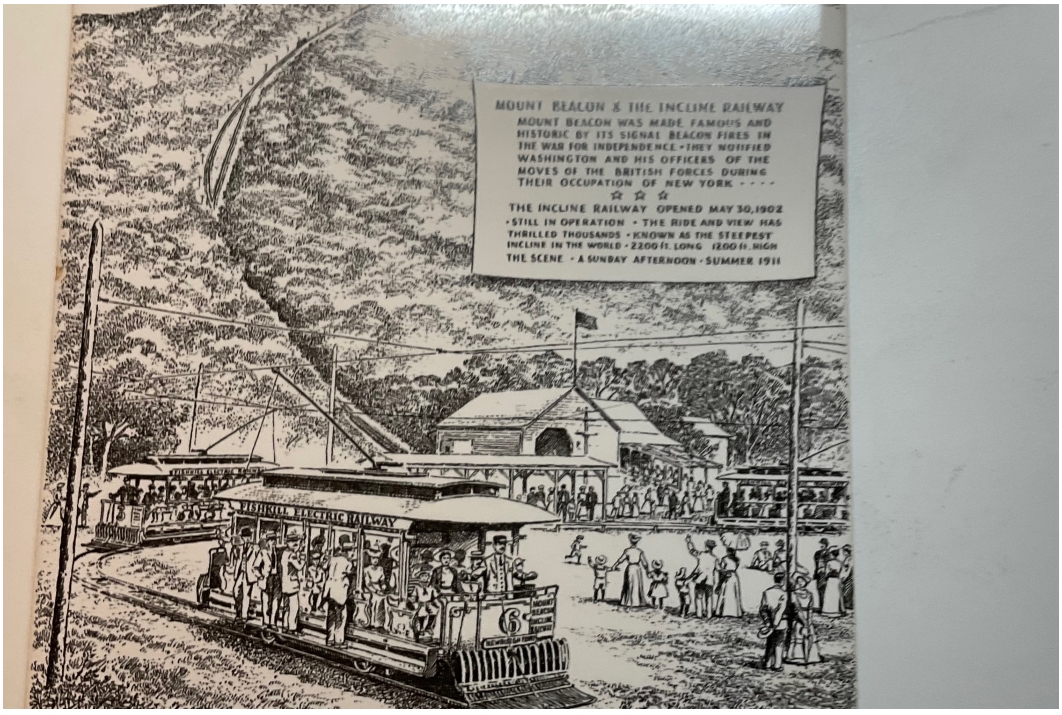
Paddlewheel steamers, sailing vessels, and ferries docked regularly, tying Newburgh to the rhythms of the river.

By the mid-20th century, Water Street had blossomed into one of the region's finest shopping districts. Trolley lines connected neighborhoods, department stores and cafes lined the street, and the area pulsed with urban energy. But change came swiftly. The opening of the Newburgh–Beacon Bridge in 1963, coupled with the end of ferry service and the rise of suburban malls, shifted economic life away from the river. Urban renewal efforts in the 1960s and '70s led to the demolition of many historic structures, leaving large gaps in what had been a vibrant downtown.

Yet in recent years, the waterfront has experienced a revival. The return of ferry service, preservation of historic districts, and a new wave of local businesses have begun to restore the charm of the area. Today, Water Street and the surrounding riverfront are once again a place of gathering, history, and renewal—where past and present meet along the banks of the Hudson.

Here's a **recent photograph** (approximately five months old) that captures Newburgh's waterfront along the Hudson River, featuring a vibrant scene with

Mount Beacon Incline Railway (1902)


MOUNT BEACON & THE INCLINE RAILWAY
MOUNT BEACON WAS MADE FAMOUS AND HISTORIC BY ITS SIGNAL BEACON FIRES IN THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE • THEY NOTIFIED WASHINGTON AND HIS OFFICERS OF THE MOVES OF THE BRITISH FORCES DURING THEIR OCCUPATION OF NEW YORK - - - -
☆ ☆ ☆
THE INCLINE RAILWAY OPENED MAY 30, 1902 • STILL IN OPERATION • THE RIDE AND VIEW HAS THRILLED THOUSANDS • KNOWN AS THE STEEPEST INCLINE IN THE WORLD • 2200 ft. LONG 1200 ft. HIGH
THE SCENE • A SUNDAY AFTERNOON • SUMMER 1911
BISHKILL ELECTRIC RAILWAY

The bustling base of the Landmark Incline Railway, summer 1911—where eager visitors gathered to ascend the steepest passenger incline in the world for sweeping views and patriotic reflection.

Mount Beacon, rising above the town of **Beacon, New York**, holds great historical and patriotic significance. During the American Revolution, signal fires—**beacons**—were lit atop this mountain to communicate alerts and troop movements, giving both the mountain and the town their names. Officers of George Washington's Continental Army reportedly used this strategic vantage point to monitor British activity on the Hudson River.

In the industrial age, Mount Beacon became a tourist destination. The **Mount Beacon Incline Railway**, opened on **May 30, 1902**, was an engineering marvel of its time. Known as the **steepest incline railway in the world**, it stretched 2,200 feet and rose 1,500 feet up the mountain. It offered stunning panoramic views of the Hudson Highlands, drawing thousands of visitors eager for the thrill of the ride and the scenery at the summit.

The image captures **a Sunday afternoon in the summer of 1911**, with tourists arriving via trolley at the lower station. A festive crowd gathers in Victorian attire—men in hats and coats, women in long dresses, children in tow—ready to ride the incline up the forested slope that looms dramatically in the background.

1

Though the original railway ceased operations in the 1970s and suffered damage in subsequent decades, efforts have been made to preserve and restore its history. Mount Beacon remains a popular hiking and sightseeing spot today.

Vintage postcard depicting passenger cars ascending the steep incline.

1

Part III – Traditions in the Valley

Cornwall Presbyterian Church

This image shows the **Cornwall Presbyterian Church**, established in **1856** at 222 Hudson Street. It was founded by reform-minded locals seeking a less rigid faith. The structure was built by Daniel Taft, expanded later in the 19th century, and has served as a resilient hub of spiritual and social service for the Cornwall-on-Hudson community ever since.

In 1855, a group of 17 congregants (12 women and 5 men) broke away from the stricter Canterbury Presbyterian Church, dissatisfied with its rigid discipline—especially under Rev. James Silliman, known for strict Puritanical oversight—and issues over slavery. They initially met in a schoolroom before purchasing land and commissioning local builder Daniel Taft to construct their own church. The building, located at 222 Hudson Street, was dedicated in May 1856.

A recent photograph of the Cornwall Presbyterian Church in Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY, captured by Michael Nelson and dated September 3, 2025

Brotherhood Winery – A Living Legacy Since 1839

Established in 1839, Brotherhood is recognized as America's oldest continuously operating winery, with

Tucked in the village of Washingtonville, New York, **Brotherhood Winery** holds the distinction of being **America's oldest continuously operating winery**. Founded in **1839** by French immigrant John Jaques, the winery began with a modest vineyard and a vision—to craft wines of purity and purpose. His early production, known for

historic stone cellars and a legacy that has endured through Prohibition, fire, and centuries of winemaking tradition.

By the late 19th century, the business had expanded under the stewardship of Jaques's sons and later new owners, who renamed it *Brotherhood*. With stone buildings, vaulted underground cellars, and a commitment to traditional winemaking methods, the winery became both a local landmark and a regional powerhouse. Even during Prohibition, Brotherhood endured—producing sacramental wine legally and storing vast reserves of sparkling wine for future celebrations.

In the decades that followed, Brotherhood embraced the future without forgetting its roots. It opened its doors to the public in the 1940s, welcoming guests for tastings, cellar tours, and special events—a practice that helped define wine tourism in the Hudson Valley. Though a devastating fire in 1999 tested its resilience, the winery recovered and renewed its place as a cornerstone of New York's wine country.

Today, Brotherhood Winery continues to thrive, blending heritage and innovation, and preserving a tradition that has aged—like its finest vintages—with enduring grace.

Brotherhood Winery in Washingtonville—exterior,

Jones Farm, Cornwall, New York

JONES
FARM
1914
LOCATED IN THE SCENIC AND HISTORIC HUDSON VALLEY, THIS
FAMILY OWNED FARM HAS SPANNED FIVE GENERATIONS ON ANGOLA RD.
THIS PICTURESQUE CORNWALL, N.Y. LANDMARK SUPPLIES QUALITY FARM
PRODUCTS AND COUNTRY GIFTS TO THE SURROUNDING AREA

Jones Farm in Cornwall, New York—founded in 1914 and still family-run, this cherished Hudson Valley farm has provided fresh produce and community warmth for over five generations.

Founded in 1914, Jones Farm is one of the oldest continuously operating family-run farms in the Hudson Valley, located on Angola Road in Cornwall, New York. For over a century, the Jones family has cultivated the land, creating a beloved local landmark known for its fresh produce, homemade baked goods, seasonal events, and artisanal gifts.

What began as a traditional working farm has evolved over generations into a community hub, blending agricultural heritage with warm hospitality. The farm store, often filled with fresh pies, cider donuts, and handcrafted gifts, draws visitors year-round from across the region and beyond.

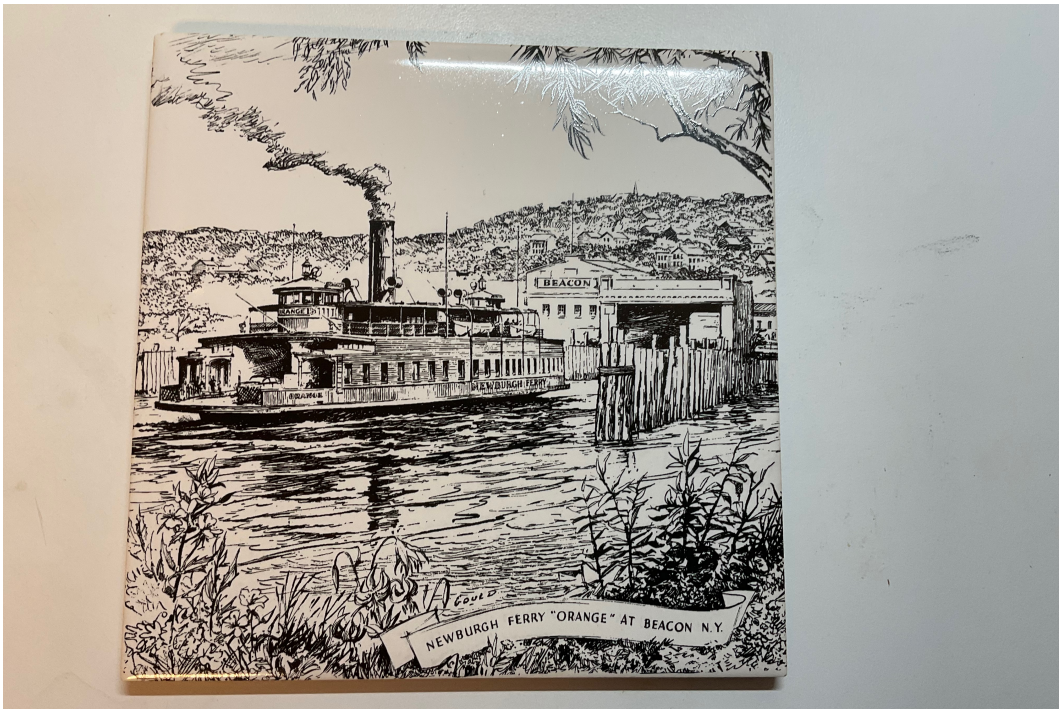
Jones Farm is more than a business—it is a living story of family stewardship, local resilience, and Hudson Valley tradition. Set against the backdrop of rolling hills and historic scenery, it symbolizes the enduring importance of small farms in American life.

Today, the farm remains in operation by descendants of the original Jones family, continuing a legacy that connects the past with the present, field by field and season by season.

Jones farm set in a bright, sunny photo of a small white structure—possibly the gift shop or gallery—set amid well-maintained landscaping and floral displays.

Part IV – The Hudson in a Modern Nation

Newburgh Ferry “Orange” at Beacon, N.Y.



Newburgh Ferry “Orange” at Beacon, N.Y.
A historic Hudson River steam ferry arriving at the Beacon terminal during the early 20th century—part of a vital cross-river link between Newburgh and Beacon before

The Newburgh–Beacon Ferry was a vital Hudson River transportation link connecting the city of Newburgh on the west bank with Beacon on the east. The ferry in the image is the Orange, one of the paddle-wheel steam ferries that served this route during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Operating well before the construction of the Newburgh–Beacon Bridge (opened in 1963), ferries like the *Orange* carried passengers, goods, and eventually automobiles across the river. This route was especially important for linking rail travelers from the Erie Railroad in Newburgh to the New York Central Railroad in Beacon.

The ferry shown here is arriving or docked at the Beacon terminal, with its classic smokestack billowing steam and the hills of Beacon rising in the background. The terminal building marked “Beacon” stood as a symbol of the city’s industrial and transportation prominence in the region.

The end of ferry service came in the early 1960s, but the *Orange* remains a nostalgic symbol of river life and the vital role of ferries in pre-bridge Hudson Valley travel.

A historic black-and-white photo of the ferry *Orange* docked in Newburgh, circa 1957

A contemporary photo showing the ferry approaching Beacon's dock—taken after the service was revived in 2005. It was revived as a commuter-only ferry service

Hyde Park: The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT HOME
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE · HYDE PARK, N.Y.
BIRTHPLACE OF THE 32nd PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
BUILT ABOUT 1826, IT UNDERWENT MAJOR ALTERATIONS IN 1915
IT IS AN IMPRESSIVE EXAMPLE OF GEORGIAN-FEDERAL REVIVAL STYLE
SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Springwood, the lifelong home of Franklin D. Roosevelt in Hyde Park, NY—where the 32nd President was born, governed, and ultimately laid to rest. A beacon of American leadership and legacy.

Known simply as "**Springwood,"** this stately home on the east bank of the Hudson River was **FDR's birthplace**(January 30, 1882), **his family retreat**, and later **his final resting place**. Originally constructed around **1800**, it was significantly renovated and expanded in **1915** under Roosevelt's direction, incorporating **Georgian and Federal Revival** styles to reflect classical American architecture.

This residence not only served as the heart of Roosevelt's personal life but also played a major role in his public one. During the **Great Depression** and **World War II**, Springwood was a place of decision-making, diplomacy, and reflection. FDR returned here often while in office and hosted many prominent figures, including Winston Churchill and King George VI.

FDR's deep roots in Hyde Park reflected his political identity as a man of both elite heritage and populist ideals. His experiences here helped shape his **New Deal policies**, conservation ethic, and vision for democratic leadership.

After his death in 1945, Roosevelt bequeathed the home to the American people, making it the first presidential library and residence donated as a national historic site.

Springwood today.

Battle Monument at West PointImage Description

Battle Monument at Trophy Point, West Point, N.Y. A towering tribute to Union officers who gave their lives during the Civil War, standing proudly on the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy.

Standing at Trophy Point overlooking the Hudson, the Battle Monument was dedicated in 1897 to honor Union Army officers—many of them West Point graduates—who died in the Civil War. Funded largely by alumni donations, it was designed by Stanford White and features a 46-foot Corinthian column of pink granite topped by Frederick MacMonnies' bronze figure of Victory. Around its base are the names of more than 2,200 fallen officers. As one of West Point's most iconic landmarks, the monument endures as a symbol of duty, honor, and sacrifice.

Dramatic skies and a view of Trophy Point's sweeping lawn and vistas.

The Post Chapel at West Point

The Post Chapel of West Point—built in 1900, this historic church has served as a spiritual sanctuary for cadets, soldiers, and families at the U.S. Military Academy for over a century.

Built in 1900 in the Colonial Revival style, the Post Chapel is one of West Point's oldest religious buildings still in use. With its brick walls and white steeple, it has hosted worship services, weddings, and memorials for cadets, officers, and families for over a century. Smaller and more intimate than the Cadet Chapel, it remains a cherished symbol of faith and tradition at the Academy.

The exterior of the Post Chapel (Building 692), complete with its classic brick façade, entry canopy, and surrounding seasonal foliage

Thayer Hall - West point

Thayer Hall – United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

Thayer Hall was originally constructed in **1909** as a Gothic Revival riding hall where cadets learned horsemanship, its large, open interior well-suited for equestrian training. In 1958, it underwent a major transformation into an academic building and was renamed in honor of **Sylvanus Thayer**, the "Father of the Military Academy." Today, it stands as one of West Point's central educational facilities, featuring classrooms, offices, an auditorium, and collaborative spaces.

As part of the Academy's Academic Building Upgrade Program, completed in 2009, Thayer Hall was renovated to include modern amenities—new offices, classrooms, an expanded library, and a fitness center—while preserving its historic architectural character.

Thayer Hall - West point

Epilogue – Echoes Along the MidHudson

Seals of the original 13 colonies

"Seals of the Original Thirteen States — A patriotic tribute to the founding states of the United States, each seal reflecting the unique identity, heritage, and ideals of the

"Seals of the Original Thirteen States – By Act of Continental Congress"

At the center is a banner with a bald eagle and U.S. flag drapery, commemorating the formation of the United States from the original thirteen colonies. Surrounding this central emblem are **thirteen state seals**, each representing one of the **original Thirteen Colonies** that declared independence from Britain in 1776 and later became the first states of the United States.

State	Description

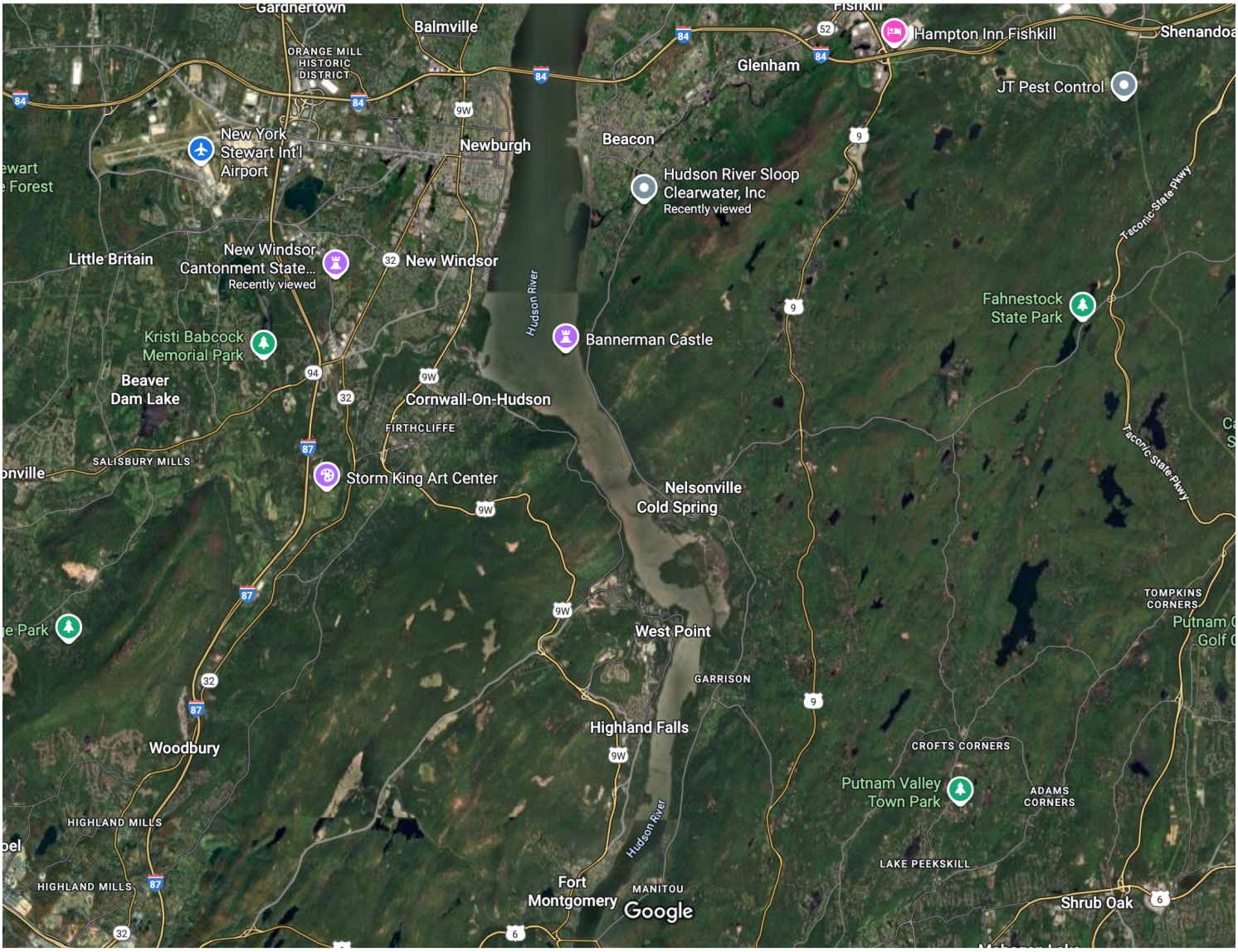
Rhode Island	Seal in top left, red ink. Motto: “Hope.” Icon: Anchor, a Christian symbol of hope. Adopted 1644, founded by Roger Williams on principles of religious freedom. The anchor reflects maritime heritage and theological optimism.
Virginia	Top row, center, red ink. Motto: Sic Semper Tyrannis (“Thus Always to Tyrants”). Icon: Virtus standing over a fallen tyrant. Adopted 1776, symbolizing victory over monarchy. Home to Washington, Jefferson, and key Revolutionary leaders.
Georgia	Top row, right, gold ink. Motto: “Wisdom, Justice, Moderation.” Icon: Arch and pillars guarded by soldier with sword. Ratified the Constitution in 1788. Seal reflects three branches of government and defense of principles.
New Jersey	Second row, left, red ink. Motto: “Liberty and Prosperity.” Icon: Liberty and Ceres with horse’s head crest. Adopted 1777. Symbolizes freedom, agriculture, and New Jersey’s key Revolutionary battles.
Connecticut	Second row, center, red ink. Motto: Qui Transtulit Sustinet (“He Who Transplanted Still Sustains”). Icon: Three grapevines, possibly the three original settlements (Windsor, Wethersfield, Hartford). Reflects Puritan roots and agrarian base.
Pennsylvania	Second row, right, red ink. Icon: Eagle, ship, plow, wheat, olive branch, and cornstalk. Founded by William Penn as a Quaker haven. Seal reflects industry, peace, and agriculture.
Delaware	Bottom row, left, gold ink. Motto: “Liberty and Independence.” Icon: Farmer, soldier, ox, and ship. First state to ratify the Constitution. Seal honors militia strength and agricultural heritage.
Massachusetts	Bottom row, second from left, blue ink. Motto: Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem (“By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty”). Icon: Native American with bow and arrow, arm with sword above. Central in early rebellion—Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere’s ride.
New Hampshire	Bottom row, center, blue ink. Icon: Ship on stocks at Portsmouth, symbolizing shipbuilding. Adopted 1784. Seal honors naval strength and industry.
North Carolina	Bottom row, second from right, blue ink. Motto: Esse Quam Videri (“To be, rather than to seem”). Icon: Liberty and Plenty with cornucopia and liberty cap. Represents authenticity, liberty, and abundance. Early in declaring independence.
New York	Bottom row, right, gold ink. Motto: “Excelsior” (“Ever Upward”). Icon: Liberty and Justice flank shield of Hudson River with ships. Battleground in the Revolution; symbol of commerce and liberty.

South Carolina	Traditional seal (placement unclear). Mottos: Animis opibusque parati and Dum spiro spero. Icon: Palmetto tree and oak, symbolizing resilience and victory over British forces. Early advocate for independence.
Maryland	Likely lower corner seal. Motto: Fatti Maschii, Parole Femine (“Manly Deeds, Womanly Words”). Icon: Heraldic shield with knight and horseman. Founded as a haven for Catholics, blending religious tolerance with aristocratic tradition.

Visitor Travel Guide

Map of the Hudson Valley

You can enter notes here.



Hudson Valley

Landmark addresses and contact information

The Old Sands-Ring Homestead – Quaker & Patriot Ties

Address: Sands-Ring Homestead Museum, 180 Main Street, Cornwall, NY 12518
Details: Built c.1760, this Quaker home is one of the oldest in Cornwall. Today it operates as a museum with rotating exhibits and programs on colonial and Revolutionary life.

The Hudson River Sloop

Address: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., 724 Wolcott Avenue, Beacon, NY 12508
Details: While the original sloops are long gone, Clearwater sails as an educational replica. Public sails and programs are offered seasonally from Beacon and other riverfront towns.

Hasbrouck House – Washington's Final Headquarters

Address: Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, 84 Liberty Street, Newburgh, NY 12551
Details: The nation's first publicly operated historic site (est. 1850). Visitors can tour Washington's wartime headquarters and museum exhibits on the Revolution.

Temple Hill – New Windsor Cantonment, 1783

Address: New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site & National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, 374 Temple Hill Road, New Windsor, NY 12553
Details: Site of the final winter encampment of the Continental Army. Features reconstructed log huts, costumed interpreters, and the Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

The Proclamation of Peace – Newburgh 1783

Address: Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, 84 Liberty Street, Newburgh, NY 12551
Details: Washington proclaimed the cessation of hostilities here in April 1783. Interpretive panels and exhibits highlight the significance of this moment.

Knox Headquarters – Ellison House

Address: Knox's Headquarters State Historic Site, 289 Forge Hill Road, Vails Gate, NY 12584
Details: Stone home of John Ellison, leased by General Henry Knox. Open seasonally with tours and **Revolutionary** War programs.

Generals Von Steuben and Gates Homes

- **General Gates HQ (Hasbrouck Farmhouse, New Windsor)**
  Address: (Not a separate visitor site; associated with New Windsor Cantonment.)
  374 Temple Hill Road, New Windsor, NY 12553
- **Baron von Steuben HQ (Mount Gulian Historic Site, Fishkill/Beacon)**
  Address: 145 Sterling Street, Beacon, NY 12508
  Details: Historic Hudson Valley estate where von Steuben helped found the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783. Tours available seasonally.

Storm King Mountain

Address: Storm King State Park, Mountain Road (Route 9W), Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520
Details: Scenic hiking area with views of the Hudson Highlands. No visitor center; parking areas provide trail access.

The Side-Wheeler Ferryboat *Highlander*

Address: U.S. Military Academy at West Point, 606 Thayer Road, West Point, NY 10996
Details: The ferry itself no longer exists, but West Point's museum exhibits occasionally feature materials on Hudson River transportation.

The Newburgh–Beacon Ferry

Address: Ferry terminal – 2 Washington Street, Newburgh, NY 12550
Details: Revived as a commuter ferry. Operates weekdays to Beacon's Metro-North station, echoing its historic role as a vital Hudson crossing.

Mount Beacon Incline Railway (1902)

Address: Mount Beacon Park, Wolcott Avenue (Route 9D), Beacon, NY 12508
Details: Incline railway is gone, but hiking trails reach the summit where foundations remain. Interpretive signage recalls its era as the world's steepest incline railway.

Cornwall Presbyterian Church

Address: 222 Hudson Street, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520
Details: Established in 1856. The church still stands and remains active, representing local community faith traditions.

Brotherhood Winery – A Living Legacy Since 1839

Address: 100 Brotherhood Plaza Drive, Washingtonville, NY 10992
Details: America's oldest continuously operating winery. Tours, tastings, and historic cellar visits available year-round.

Jones Farm, Cornwall, New York

Address: 190 Angola Road, Cornwall, NY 12518
Details: Family-run farm since 1914. Offers local produce, bakery, and artisan goods. Open daily to visitors.

Hyde Park – The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt (Springwood)

Address: Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, 4097 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538
Details: Operated by the National Park Service. Includes Roosevelt's home, Presidential Library, and visitor center.

Battle Monument at West Point

Address: Trophy Point, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996
Details: Dedicated in 1897 to Union officers who died in the Civil War. Overlooks the Hudson River with sweeping views.

The Post Chapel at West Point

Address: U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996
Details: Constructed in 1900 and still in use. Access may be restricted due to military security; check USMA visitor policy.

Thayer Hall – West Point

Address: 646 Swift Road, West Point, NY 10996
Details: Originally built in 1909 as a riding hall. Now serves as an academic building at the Academy. Not generally open for public tours.